

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical diffusing plate comprising a birefringent film and a minute domain with a birefringent characteristic different from the birefringent film in a dispersed state in the birefringent film, wherein the birefringent film comprises a birefringent stretched film, and the minute domain comprises a positive uniaxial liquid crystal polymer, further wherein a length of the minute domain in a direction of stretching axis is longer than a length in a direction orthogonal to the stretching axis, and the liquid crystal polymer is aligned perpendicularly to a stretching axis of the birefringent stretched film.

2. The optical diffusing plate according to Claim 1, wherein the positive uniaxial liquid crystal polymer is a side chain type liquid crystal polymer comprising a monomer unit (a) containing liquid crystalline fragment side chain and a monomer unit (b) containing non-liquid crystalline fragment side chain.

3. The optical diffusing plate according to Claim 1, wherein the minute domain is distributed in a dispersed state caused by phase separation, and a length in the direction of stretching axis of the minute domain is 0.05 to 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

4. An optical diffusing plate comprising two or more of the optical diffusing plates according to Claim 1 being laminated so that a direction in stretching axis of an upper

and a lower layer may have a mutually parallel relationship.

5. An optical element comprising a laminated layer of at least one kind selecting from a polarizing plate and a retardation plate, and the optical diffusing plate according to Claim 1.

6. A liquid crystal display comprising the optical diffusing plate according to Claim 1 or the optical element according to Claim 5 on one side or both sides of a liquid crystal cells.

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